

Flex Orientation Program

Left to right: Mary Sheridan, ID; Marlene Miller, ND; Char White, WI; Sandra Assasnik, OR; and Pamela Hayes, MN



On December 9-10, 2003, five state Flex coordinators joined the TASC Team, members of the Monitoring Team, and financial representatives as a part of the first Flex Orientation Program in Duluth, MN. The two days included an overview of information regarding program evaluation, workforce, grant writing, networking, EMS, finance, and how to utilize TASC as a resource.

This program was organized to help speed the learning curve of new state Flex coordinators, to introduce them to TASC and the services they provide, and to help build the future of the Flex Program with early access

to information and networking.

The next Flex Orientation Program will be held on March 9-10, 2003. If you would like more information, contact TASC.

Spotlight on FLEX Success



East Morgan County Hospital in Brush, Colorado recently hosted an Open House to show off its latest \$1.3 million Phase II remodel project that included remodeling and expanding laboratory and diagnostic services, admissions and the gift shop. This is just one of many improvements EMCH continually makes to remain a leader in healthcare delivery and meet the needs of its small community of 5000 people.

In 1996 when many small hospitals across the nation were closing their doors, EMCH participated in a federal pilot program, EACH-RPCH, which was designed to create a larger, more supportive network of all health care providers to further integrate and better serve the needs of their respective communities. With the help of grant funding from the State of Colorado, EMCH conducted extensive community planning and assessment activities, financial feasibility studies and a Master Facility Planning process. The outcome of this effort was a decision to reduce inpatient bed size and remodel the

physical plant to enhance outpatient service delivery, which is a primary need of the community. This program evolved and EMCH became a Critical Access Hospital in 1997.

The subsequent remodel to enhance and improve outpatient services, CAH designation and partnership with Banner Health have positioned EMCH for the future, responded to the health needs of the community and enabled the hospital to provide services in a cost efficient manner.



SAVE the DATES:
Annual Flex Conference
June 15-17, 2004

TASC 90 Educational Calls:

February 11, 2004

May 12, 2004

July 14, 2004

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. CST

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PCT

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. MT

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. EST

Flex Orientation Program
March 9-10, 2004

For new Flex staff
Contact TASC for more information

Available Materials

"New Board
Development/Governance Tool" from
Barbara Dallas of the Illinois Hospital
Association
Contact Barbara at
BDallas@ihastaff.org

*Rural Hospitals: New Millennium
and New Challenges*
from the University of Minnesota
Contact TASC

*Our attitude towards ourselves
should be "to be constantly
learning" and towards others
"to be tireless in teaching."*

Mai Zedong

TASC is administered by the Rural Health Resource Center. For additional information about TASC, contact Terry Hill, Tami Lichtenberg, or Heather Hartung at 877-321-9393 or tasc@ruralresource.org